

79

By the Quene,



Here the auncient entercourse of marchaundizes betwixt our Countries and the lowe Countries of the kyng of Spayne our good brother, hath ben of late interrupted by sundrye prohibitions made in the sayde lowe Countries, aswell agaynst the caryng of the commodities of our Realme into those parties, as for the bynggng certeyne commodities of those lowe Countries, and many other, throught the same into this our Realme, wherby at the beginning such hyndraunce appeared lykely to ensue to the subiectes on both partes, as it was motioned and thought mete by vs both that a metyng and dyet should be deuised and accorded within some conuenient tyme, for the redresse of suche matters as were pretended to be the causes of the sayd prohibitions. And now by proces of tyme it is become manifest, that although the foresaid prohibitions were of theyr owne nature hurtfull to the subiectes on both parties, so as therof depended an expectation of a redresse for both our subiectes: yet the blage and maner of execution of the same prohibitions, on the other syde, do now directly and notoriously benefite and enriche only the subiectes and inhabitauntcs of the said lowe Countries, and directly and notoriously hurt & iniurie our proper subiectes, not only by the playne stoppyng and restraynyng of our marchauntes from theyr aun-
cient trade accustomed into those Countries: but by the continuall hauntyng into our Realme of them only of the lowe Countrie, and by suffyng and burdenyng our Realme with all superfluous and bnnedefull wares, euen contrary to theyr owne prohibitions, and consequently by caryng away the treasure & monyes out of our Realme. For although by generall wordes of their prohibitions, the wollen clothes of our Realme are vtterly forbydden to be brought thither, vpon a pretence of infection, and lyke wyse other commodities whereupon our handycraftes people shoulde labour, be straghtly forbydden to be brought hither by any person out of the sayde lowe Countries: Notwithstanding it is well knowen, that the greater part of those commodities, come originally from hygh Almayne and other Remote Countries, and haue as it were but theyr passage through those lowe Countries, yet a great number of people of the same lowe Countries, eyther as contempnyng theyr owne prohibitions, or hauyng by speciall labour some secrete licences, do dayly carry, as they haue all this sommer also vsed to do, all such clothes, without any scruple of infection, as they can by any meanes with fauour, and sometyme without knowledge of officers, obteyne to be transported out of our Realme, and lyke wyse cease not to byng great quantities of all kynde of wares, and specially suche as are most superfluous, into this our Realme, returnyng for the same, as experience doth proue, monyes and plate from hence, in all the secretest maner that they can. wherupon although we haue borne herewith very long, yet now we are necessarily compelled to prouide spedye remedye for our lounyng subiectes, accordyng to the naturall care whiche we are bounde to haue of the publique estate of our sayde subiectes, in matters so manifestly sought to vndo them. For the reliefe wherof, we are also daily sued vnto by the company of our marchantes aduenturers, who haue not shipped any clothes out of this Realme, as they were accustomed, into those lowe Countries, by the space of these thirtene monethes, being therby sore charged with commodities remaynyng vpon their handes: That although vpon long expectation of some common order to be taken betwixt vs and the counsell of our good brother rulyng for hym in the sayd lowe Countries, they haue to their great charges, remayned without trading any kinde of marchaundizes, eyther into, or out of those Countries: yet it myght please vs to haue compassion of them, and to permit them with our fauour, and without further delay, to cary their clothes which were shipped siue monethes passed, into some other places and countries mete for them, consideryng they see nother libertie, nor suertie to resort into the low Countries, as they were accustomed. And further, that this vnozdinate blage of the Marchauntes of the

71

lowe Countries, might not agaynst their owne prohibitions, be permitted to be continued in our Countries, by them, whiche they do only seeke to gaine a monopoly, with an entent to overthrowe and impoverishe all other marchauntes besides them selves: Therefore we haue vpon this vrgent necessitie, by the licenced our sayde Marchauntes, to transport theyr said Clothes into any other convenient place where they shall thinke best, being out of those lowe Countries, as we doubt not but theyr commodities shall for theyr proper values and estimate, be desired in very many places. And next, we do ordeyne and straghtly charge and commaunde, that vntyll these late great disorders and interruptions of the entercourse by these prohibitions, and specially by the notable parciall misusage therof shalbe reformed and repayed (whereunto for our parte we are so willing, as we wyl refuse no reasonable meanes) no maner commoditie, wares, or marchaundizes, growing, brought, or prouided in the sayd lowe Countries, or comyng through the same, shalbe from the publication herof, by any maner of person, transported from the sayde lowe Countries, hyther into this our Realme, or into any port or Creeke therof, vpon payne of forfeiture of the same, the one halfe therof to vs, and the other to any person that shall geue due information therof eyther to our pryncie counsell, or into our Exchequer, as other informations are geuen, within two monethes after the offence committed agaynst this our proclamation.

Deuen at our Castle of Wyndsoꝝ the .xxiii. day of March. 1563. in the sixte yere of our raigne.

God saue the Quene.

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Con privilegio Regie Maestatis.